(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the action plan of Government to augment health infrastructure and devise other measures to control this rising trend; and

(d) what is the status of this menace in Orissa and how far the Centre has helped both physically and financially to control this menace in the backward State?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A total of 60,638 patients out of an estimated 5.2 lakh AIDS patients are receiving antiretroviral treatment (ART) from Government Hospitals. Out of 5.2 million estimated infections with HIV, nearly 10% will require ART at any given time. Another 20,000-25,000 patients may be on ART in private sector.

(c) It is planned to scale up availability of ART from present 107 centres to 250 centres by 2011 and provide treatment to 3,00,000 patients. A number of initiatives are taken to control this rising trend. These include provision of CD4 machines to ART centers, training of health care providers, treatment of STIs, ensuring safe blood, condom promotion, Targeted Interventions (TI) among high risk groups and Prevention of Parent To Child Transmission (PPTCT) services. A number of IEC activities are undertaken to raise the awareness about HIV/AIDS in the general public.

(d) Prevalence of HIV is 0.25% in Orissa with an estimated 84,000 HIV Positive persons. 844 cases of AIDS have been reported so far from the State. 82 counseling and testing centers, 23 STD clinics, 33 Targeted Interventions for High Risk Groups, 7 Major blood banks, 51 district level blood banks and one ART Center has been set up under NACP in Orissa. Rs. 19.45 crore was allocated to the State during 2006-07.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Shrinking of land holdings

1952. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) in view of shrinking land holdings, increasing demand for food, depleting natural resources and rapid urbanization, what steps Government have taken in this regard and the concrete results thereof; and

(b) whether the recommendations of Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Committee are being implemented and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Government is implementing various watershed development programmes namely (i) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA), (ii) Soil Conservation for Enhancing Productivity of Degradad Lands in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP & FPR), (iii) Reclamation of Alkali Soil (RAS), (iv) Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA) (v) Watershed Development Fund (WDF), (vi) Externally Aided Projects (EAPs), (vii) Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), (viii) Desert Development Programme (DDP), (ix) Integrated Wasteland Project (IWDP) and (x) National Afforstation & Eco-Development Project (NAEP) through different Ministries in the country for management and development of the degraded lands. Under these programmes since inception up to the end of X Five Year Plan, about 51 million ha. of degraded lands is developed.

(b) Government has taken necessary action to expedite examination of the Revised Draft National Policy for Farmers and other recommendations. A conference of State Ministers for Agriculture and allied sectors was held on 22nd December, 2006 to discuss and obtain their views on the recommendations made by the National Commission on Farmers. While examining the reports as well as Revised Draft National Policy for Farmers it was observed that many recommendatons of National Commission on Farmers are already under implementation through several initiatives and programmes/schemes launched.

Prices of milk

†1953. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) to what extent prices of milk has been increased during the past two years;

(b) whether this increase is owing to the conspiracy of foreign milk companies to capture the milk business of the country; and

(c) if so, the action being taken by Government to prevent it and to provide cheaper milk to the consumers?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.